

STATINTL

Robert S. Allen - Paul Scott Report

Fulbright May Confer with Nasser

WASHINGTON — Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is considering flying to Cairo for extraordinary discussions with President Gamal Nasser.

State Department authorities favor Fulbright doing this, and Nasser has indicated he would like very much to talk to Fulbright.

Purpose of this unusual plan is to discuss the recent series of events that have angered the United Arab ruler and led to reprisal threats and measures against the U.S.

FOREMOST among these incidents are the picketing in New York of the UAP ship *Cleopatra* in protest against Arab blacklisting of U.S. vessels that have put in at Israel ports, and the action of the House and Senate in voting a provision in the foreign aid bill authorizing the President "to withhold funds for any nation that violates an agreement pertaining to international waterways."



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Intent of this exceptional declaration is to condemn Nasser's refusal to permit the Suez Canal to be used by vessels dealing with Israel. The Administration strongly opposed this amendment, and Fulbright sought to kill it. When he was defeated on that, the Foreign Relations chairman then offered an amendment of his own to take the sting out of the other. The Senate decisively turned him down on that.

The issue is now in private conference between the two chambers.

INSIDE word is that a new compromise is being considered under which "ameliorating language" would be incorporated in an official report on the legislation involving President Eisenhower's \$4.1 billion foreign aid budget.

Fulbright is sounding out Congressional leaders and Foreign Relations committeemen on his proposed personal talks with Nasser.

The Arkansan is telling them he has not yet fully made up his mind about that, but is "seriously considering it." Opinion among his colleagues is sharply divided on the matter. Some are favorable; others strongly opposed.

Thursday night Fulbright had a lengthy conference at the State Department with top officials.